

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Monterey and Santa Cruz counties have been awarded \$2.3 million for two local probation programs. The funds were part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was signed into law in February.

"At a time when local and state funds are stretched, these grants will help our local probation departments continue to improve their strategies, opening a day reporting center in Monterey County and preserving services for 80 high-risk youth and their families in Santa Cruz County," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "It's important that we focus resources on prevention as well as law enforcement, and I'm glad that the Recovery Act allows probation departments around the country to do just that."

Grant recipients:

- Monterey County will receive \$1,440,888 to implement the Monterey County Day Reporting Center.
- Santa Cruz County will receive \$913,560 to support its Juvenile Probation Community Accountability Project.

In Santa Cruz, funds will sustain the Juvenile Probation Community Accountability Project, preserving five fulltime employees who help high-risk youth and their families. The program emphasizes job-skill development and will provide service to 80 youth.

"With the Recovery Act's Edward Byrne Memorial funds, the Juvenile Probation Community Accountability Program will save more than five jobs in Santa Cruz County and will sustain highly effective community based alternatives that have reduced crime, recidivism and incarceration," said Scott MacDonald, chief probation officer for Santa Cruz County. "Through probation supervision, job training, mentorship and an evening program, we are laying the pathway toward productive citizenship for these at risk youth."

The Monterey County Day Reporting Center will increase the effectiveness of probation officers, create an intermediate sanction to reduce the number of probation and parole violators and reduce recidivism and crime rates. The money will be used to establish the center in partnership with Behavioral Interventions, a national community corrections provider operating

more than 30 day reporting center programs in the United States.

"I'm excited to learn the Monterey County Probation Department has been awarded \$1.4 million through the Recovery Act," said Manuel Real, chief probation officer for Monterey County. "The Day Reporting Center will improve the functioning of the criminal justice system through structured, evidence based treatment, a proven technique to reduce recidivism rates and reduce the associated high costs of incarceration."

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